



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Thursday
7 December 1989**

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Burundi

Foreign Minister Opens Embassy in Japan

*EA0512133089 Bujumbura Domestic Service
in French 1800 GMT 4 Dec 89*

[Text] Mr Cyprien Mbonimpa, minister of external relations and cooperation, today began a 4-day working visit to Tokyo, at the invitation of the Japanese Government. He officially opened the Burundian Embassy in Tokyo. The ceremony was held at the Capitol Tokyo Hotel in the presence of the Japanese deputy minister of foreign affairs, heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Tokyo, General Senator (Nagane) and several economic officials interested in our country. Minister Mbonimpa hopes to hold talks with the Japanese foreign minister and also with Burundian and Japanese officials from the private and public sectors.

Chad

Foreign Minister on Libya Dialogue, Other Issues

*PM0512150389 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic
27 Nov 89 p 8*

[Khalid Sa'id Bahakam report: "Chadian Foreign Minister Tells AL-MADINAH: "We Wish To Continue Dialogue With Libya"]

[Text] Jeddah—Chadian Foreign Minister Acheikh Ibn Oumar has emphasized his country's wish to continue the dialogue with Libya in order to resolve the dispute between them over the Aozou area. In an exclusive statement to AL-MADINAH he pointed out that the Algiers agreement concluded between the two countries in August is a first step in that direction.

He also indicated that Chad wants an amicable solution with Libya, and they do not favor turning to the International Court of Justice because its ruling might not satisfy one of the two sides, thus causing further problems. On the objective of his Gulf tour he said that "my tour of some Gulf states is to deliver written messages from Chadian President Hissein Habre to the leaders of these states regarding bilateral relations and ways of strengthening them. And also to discuss ways of developing and enhancing cooperation ties between Chad and the Gulf states. And I can say that my visits to these states were successful and achieved the results desired." On the security situation in Chad he said that most security and military problems have been contained, as there are now no troubles in the country, and security is prevailing throughout the country.

On relations between Chad and the Kingdom [of Saudi Arabia] he said that relations between the two countries are strong and derives its roots from the Islamic faith which binds the two countries.

On Chad's position on the Israeli infiltration into the African Continent, he said that Chad decided not to

restore its relations with Israel. And we do not deal with any state that has links with Israel, because we believe in the principle of human rights as well as the rights of the Palestinian people, who are struggling to establish their own state under the PLO's leadership. We do not interfere in the internal affairs of any state, and I call on the Arab and Islamic states to get closer to the African states and provide them with aid and with all they need, because the African states are experiencing difficult conditions, especially with regard to the economic situation, disease, starvation, and poverty.

Congo

Central Committee Ends Meeting, Favors Change

*AB0112120889 Paris AFP in French 2024 GMT
30 Nov 89*

[Text] Brazzaville, 30 Nov (AFP)—Congo must "be tuned" to the changes taking place on the international scene, notably in East Europe, it was learned from official sources in Brazzaville today. This adjustment to international change will be achieved based on Congo's "sociocultural realities and values," stated the final communique issued at the end of the Congolese Labor Party (PCT, the single party) Central Committee's regular session.

At the opening of the session on 27 November, General Denis Sassou-Nguesso, the Congolese head of state, called on the PCT Central Committee to "analyze these changes intelligently and discriminately" to enable Congo—which has adopted Marxist-Leninist ideology—to benefit from these experiences. The Central Committee has therefore decided to include people who are not party members in its specialized commissions: education, propaganda, economic and foreign affairs. Membership to these commissions were hitherto restricted to PCT militants. The PCT Central Committee also expressed its concern over "foreign interference" in the Angolan conflict, stressing that it jeopardizes security in Angola. It should be recalled that Congo hosted the negotiations in December 1986 which led to the adoption of the Brazzaville Agreement and the signing of the New York Accords on peace in Angola and Namibia's independence.

National Police Directorate Established

*AB3011173989 Paris AFP in French 1744 GMT
29 Nov 89*

[Text] Brazzaville, 29 Nov (AFP)—A National Police directorate "charged with carrying out at times of crisis any mission as required by circumstances" has just been set up in Congo, official sources in Brazzaville disclosed yesterday. This institution will be placed directly under General Denis Sassou-Nguesso, Congolese head of state. It will see to the prevention and repression of crime, while ensuring the security of goods and persons, the same sources added. The National Police Directorate

will be made up of soldiers and civilians, and will coordinate the emigration and immigration operations which had hitherto been handled by the State Security Directorate.

Gabon

UTA Introduces New Airport Security Measures

*AB0412083589 Paris AFP in French 1210 GMT
2 Dec 89*

[Text] Libreville, 2 Dec AFP—A statement by the French airline UTA made public in Libreville today has indicated that "with a view to strengthening security and improving punctuality, checking-in of passengers on UTA flights will henceforth be closed 1 hour before take-off."

This measure took effect on 1 December, the announcement added. It pointed out that "boarding will begin 50 minutes before take-off time." Also, passengers who request third parties to check in their baggage for them will be asked to identify their baggage before boarding," the UTA announcement concluded.

Zaire

AZAP Views Mobutu Moves on Angolan Cease-Fire

*AB0612173389 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1145 GMT
4 Dec 89*

["The Point: Angola: A New Step Toward National Reconciliation"—AZAP headline]

[Text] Kinshasa, 4 Dec (AZAP)—Patience, perseverance, and faith are, indisputably, assets that one must have if one wants to be able to carry through a difficult and painstaking task. Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, founding chairman of the Popular Movement of the Revolution, MPR, and president of the Republic, recognized mediator in the Angolan conflict, definitely possesses all these qualities required to accomplish a delicate mission, rendered all the more delicate by the

divergent views of the protagonists on the terms to settle the conflict and which he is trying to harmonize. As a shrewd diplomat, Marshal Mobutu contacts all the parties in the conflict to collect their respective views in order to attempt to reconcile their positions to achieve a peaceful and lasting solution. After traveling to Luanda where he presented his proposals for the Angolan peace process to his Angolan counterpart, the MPR founding chairman on 2 December held two lengthy meetings with Jonas Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, UNITA, to whom he submitted the terms of a cease-fire agreement already presented to the authorities in Luanda.

After meeting with Marshal Mobutu, Jonas Savimbi's statement that his movement was prepared to sign a cease-fire agreement with the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, MPLA, anywhere anytime marks an important step in the national reconciliation process in Angola. The fact that during a break between the two meetings, and before replying to the Zairian head of state, the UNITA leader took the precaution to consult with his party's base at Jamba—where the mediator's proposals were unanimously approved across the board within the party and the armed forces—only goes to highlight UNITA's commitment. In fact, a cease-fire constitutes an indispensable preamble for negotiations on the political issues binding the future of Angola. This is the rationale behind the MPR founding chairman's continued talks with the two parties involved and his relevant proposals to them. It is only when the weapons have been put down that Angolans will really be able to make use of the language of peace and enjoy the pleasures of peace. From all indications, that time is inexorably approaching, thanks to the efforts of the mediator and the goodwill of the parties concerned. Similarly, the passionate appeal made by the Angolan bishops through a pastoral letter calling on the politicians to sign a cease-fire ending the suffering of Angolans constitutes a sure sign that the general atmosphere gives every hope for national reconciliation in Angola.

Ethiopia

Somalia

Dergue Said To Use Sudanese Rebels in War

EA0412131089 (Clandestine) Voice of Oromo
Liberation in Oromo 1630 GMT 1 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Ethiopian colonialists rule the country with the help of foreign powers. It is an undeniable fact that colonialists, oppressors, and enslavers of any color anywhere support one another to oppress the people they rule. If we look at the Abyssinian rulers of the past and the present Dergue, they have never ruled the former Abyssinia and the Ethiopia of Menelik, without considerable assistance from all kinds, from foreign colonizers. [passage omitted]

After obtaining modern weapons from European powers and starting his campaign of genocide against the non-Abyssinian people, Menelik managed to create the present Ethiopia, or the prison of mankind, as it is today. He started his first war against the Welo Oromos in 1968 and completed it, after 30 years of Oromo resistance. The last Oromo group to be conquered by Menelik was the Borana people, in 1898. Millions of Oromos were massacred, and the remainder were enslaved by the armed colonizers. The same thing happened to other nationalities. The killing and enslaving of these non-Abyssinian people was of great value to the Abyssinians. To do that he got 600,000 guns from the Europeans, and used more than 500,000 to colonize the non-Abyssinian population of the Oromos and others. [passage omitted]

Since the Oromo struggle has become strong, Mengistu has been unable to get manpower and economic resources from Oromoland, and has lost confidence in his soldiers. That is why he has created foreign forces and has given them full authority to kill, loot, and burn the houses of the Oromos and other people. Genocide and enslavement of the people started by Menelik, is today revealing itself by the joint operation of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army and the Workers' Party of Ethiopia [WPE].

Tools of the fascist Dergue, these forces are shedding the blood of the Oromo people, alongside the forces of the WPE. In fact, it is not new for the Abyssinians, if one knows them well, to give the country over to foreign forces, so that they may rule the colonized people, using not only such force, but their own people as well. The reason for such shameful action by the Abyssinian rulers is to keep themselves in power at any cost, and to rule the country with iron chains, inherited from their predecessors.

While they do this in practice, they pretend to be the heroes and nationalists, who can die in defense of their country. In reality, they give full authority to the foreign forces to kill, loot, and (?rape) the people they call genuine citizens. What they do against the so-called citizens is clear proof that they are colonizers and foreigners to the Oromos and others, whom they enslave in the empire.

SNM Rebels Report Mutiny in Hargeysa 4 Dec

EA0712152689 (Clandestine) Radio of the Somali
National Movement in Somali 1500 GMT 5 Dec 89

[From the "Hogogal" program]

[Excerpt] The majority of the 26th Division of the government's army based in Hargeysa has mutinied and joined the liberation forces of the Somali National Movement [SNM] last night, with tanks, artillery pieces, and other weapons. This followed contacts the SNM has been having with members of the 26th Division, who have finally seen Siad Barre for what he is.

This morning, SNM fighters and the troops who joined the SNM last night carried out an all-out attack on Hargeysa. Reports from Hargeysa say the enemy has been driven out of many areas, and the enemy troops are in a state of confusion. The reports add that the small number of civilians who were still in the town have now fled. We shall supply you with details soon. The fighting is still going on. [passage omitted]

Rebel Leader: Hargeysa Captured

EA0612194389 (Clandestine) Radio of the Somali
National Movement in Somali 1500 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Dear listeners we are going to bring you a nationwide speech made by the chairman of the Somali National Movement [SNM] Ahmad Mohamed Mahmud Silanyo, over Radio SNM today and thereafter we will bring you an interview that Radio SNM conducted with the commander of the SNM liberation forces, Abdullahi Askar following a new development that has taken place in the country.

[Begin Silanyo recording] SNM forces launched an all-out offensive yesterday [5 December] morning in Hargeysa where heavy fighting took place and SNM forces have liberated the town of Hargeysa and have captured a large quantity of weapons from the enemy and they have dealt the enemy a heavy defeat. [passage indistinct]

I would like to inform Somalis that the fall of the town of Hargeysa has brought a dramatic [words indistinct]. We shall keep you informed of further developments. [end recording]

The chairman of the SNM, Ahmad Silanyo in a nationwide broadcast has announced that the SNM Liberation Forces have captured the town of Hargeysa following an all-out offensive launched yesterday morning against enemy positions. The town is now firmly in the hands of our forces. [passage omitted]

Civilians Warned To Stay Clear

EA0612194889 (Clandestine) Radio of the Somali National Movement in Somali 1500 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] All civilians are advised to stay away from towns captured by the Somali National Movement liberation forces until further notice.

'Intensive Offensive' Reported

AB0712141189 Paris AFP in French 1315 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Nairobi, 7 Dec (AFP)—Hargeysa, the northern Somali capital, has been the scene of violent fighting between Somali loyal forces and rebel units of the army which have just announced their union with the Somali National Movement (SNM—armed opposition group). It was learned in Nairobi today from several concordant sources contacted in the region. These sources pointed out that fighting was going on this morning, with the Somali Air Force bombing units of infantry supported by armored vehicles. These units wanted to open all routes for SNM elements for the control of Hargeysa and, particularly, its airport, these sources added.

SNM troops and soldiers who recently defected are presently fighting side by side in Hargeysa. Other reports speak of SNM troop movement toward several areas not controlled by their men, notably Boroma. According to the same sources, this is the most intensive offensive since the beginning of the war some 8 months ago.

The SNM radio, Radio Halgan, monitored in Djibouti yesterday, announced the capture of the city, but fighting has since increased in intensity. The SNM radio, which was transmitting yesterday morning from 0830-1000 (0530-0700 GMT) was silent this morning.

Yesterday evening, after the announcement by the SNM of the capture of the northern capital, the highest-ranking military officer of the opposition movement, Mr Abdillahi Askar, had asked Somali refugees not yet to return to Hargeysa so that his men would be able to "mop up" the city and "demine it." Mr Abdillahi Askar stressed that only one sector is still not under the control of his men.

Breaking away from its usual war communiques on guerrilla activities or commentary and political analysis, Radio Halgan last night broadcast for the first time songs and dances to celebrate its "victory."

Government 'Threatens' To End Trade With Kenya

EA0612135089 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1000 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] Mogadishu—Somalia has threatened that it will stop trade with Kenya, if Kenya continues with the screening exercise in that country. Mr Abdiqasim Salad Hussein, the Somali minister of trade, told newsmen in Mogadishu that the Government of Somalia would not tolerate the Kenyan Government's acts of discrimination against people of Somali origin claiming that they are the ones causing trouble. He did not elaborate.

Trade statistics show that Somalia imports 80 percent of foodstuffs from Kenya, while Somalia exports to Kenya livestock and salt. The Somali Government told Kenyan leaders that the exercise would spoil relations between the two countries.

In the exercise, Somali living in Kenya who are more than 18 years old must prove that they are in the country legally. The Kenya Government has said that the exercise is aimed at curbing poaching and banditry, which are reportedly carried out by the Somalis.

Rebels Name Gaalkacyo Mutiny Leaders

EA3012111989 (Clandestine) Radio of the Somali National Movement in Somali 1500 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Listeners, as we promised earlier we have here tonight detailed reports on the troops' mutiny on 13 November, at the headquarters of the 4th Battalion of the 54th Division, stationed in Gaalkacyo Town. The mutiny was heroically organized by officers and their soldiers, after they could not withstand the difficult living conditions the tyrannical regime of Siad Barre was imposing on Somali people still living under his moribund and dictatorial rule.

The troops who mutinied numbered 162, of whom 12 were officers. The names of the 12 officers who led the mutiny are: Colonel (Saidin Ali Osman), who was the commander of the 9th Battalion of the 4th Platoon of the 54th Division: Colonel Abdi Abdullahi Kaarey, who was the chairman of the Gaalkacyo District: Lieutenant Colonel Dhaqane Dahir Mohamed, who was the commander of the 668th Artillery Battalion there: Major Hilowleh id Osobleh, who was the head of communications of the 4th Brigade: Captain (Muhiyidin Seysu), who was the commander of the anti-aircraft [word indistinct] Captain Mohamed Ali Omar, who was the commander 461st section of the 4th Brigade of the 54th Division: Captain Abdi Hasan Ali, who was the commander [word indistinct] section: Ali Maalim Husein, who was [words indistinct] administration: Captain Ali Abdullahi Hassan, who was also [words indistinct] administration: 1st Lieutenant 'Abd-al-Rashid Ahmed Habbad, who was the commander of the 4th Section of tanks: 1st-Lieutenant Salad Barrow Adan, who was the head of logistics of the 668th [as heard]: and 1st-Lieutenant Abdullahi Mireh Siad, who was the commander of the 21st [word indistinct] of the 662d Battalion of Burco.

These troops seized the headquarters of the 4th Brigade of the 54th Division of Gaalkacyo. They easily captured the arms and transport there.

These troops who mutinied safely joined the Somali National Movement (SNM) fighters struggling in the central regions of the country, with their weapons. The arms and transport they captured were as follows: 6 85-mm artillery pieces: 2 BM 21 artillery pieces: a BM 21 (Hafliyo) vehicle: 1 t55 tank: 1 32-mm gun [word indistinct]: 7 BM 69 (?trailer) vehicles: 2 DC [expansion unknown] vehicles: 3,000 assorted light arms, and much

ammunition. Whatever these troops could not take, due to faults, or poor quality, was burnt so that the tyrannical regime could not use it. They also captured officers and noncommissioned officers of the moribund regime of Siad Barre who were loyal, and who were shielding him against bullets.

Among the captured officers is Colonel 'Abd-al-Salaam Sheikh Abdullahi, who was commander of the 10th Brigade of the 54th division stationed at (Tuula Buuryaqab), in Mudug region. The reports also say that after the incident the tyrannical regime of Siad Barre as usual bombarded the civilians living in the area of Gaalkacyo, and inside the town of Gaalkacyo, where many people were killed and injured.

Reports from the general command of the SNM fighters say that another similar mutiny has taken place in the 10th Brigade of the 54th Division stationed at (Tuula Buuryaqab). The reports say that these troops who mutinied have joined the SNM fighters stationed in the central regions. We shall give you any further details on this matter if God wills.

Other reports from the general command of the liberation forces of the SNM say that after the suicidal regime of Siad Barre could not manage [word indistinct] to organize feuds in the central regions of the country, inciting the civilian people living there, who are brothers. We therefore call upon the Somali people to remain vigilant against the naked (?tricks) being hatched by the tyrannical regime [words indistinct] the Somali opposition to topple the moribund tyrannical regime.

Delegates Address Ethiopia Peace Talks

*EA0512211589 Mogadishu Domestic Service
in Somali 2045 GMT 4 Dec 89*

[Text] The lower committee charged with following up and implementing the peace agreement between the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] and the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia [PDRE] began work today at the People's Hall in Mogadishu.

Speaking at the opening of the talks, Comrade Dr Abdullahi Mohamed Mah, the SDR deputy minister of the interior, said that the committee was set up after the talks held by the foreign ministers of the two sides in October in New York. He also said that the SDP had striven, on its part, to complete the [word indistinct] points of the peace agreement. This requires goodwill and (?responsibility) on both sides and avoidance of anything that might create suspicion and, thus, affect the completion of the talks. He added that since the lower committee was faced with very important issues, it had to put a lot of effort [word indistinct] issues for which they are responsible and afterward forward their proposals to the higher committee of the two countries.

Comrade (Melese Tekola), deputy minister of internal affairs of the PDRE, who spoke at the opening of the talks, thanked the Somali Government for the warm welcome his delegation had been accorded in Somalia.

Mr (Melese Tekola) also said that it was very important to complete the peace agreement [word indistinct] reached by Somali and Ethiopia. The lower committee could help complete the work already done by the two countries, he said.

U.S. State Department Official Visits 3 Dec

Meets Foreign Minister

*EA0612141889 Mogadishu Domestic Service
in Somali 1700 GMT 4 Dec 89*

[Text] Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre, the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] foreign minister, today received in his office Mr Irvin Hicks, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary for African affairs, and his delegation who arrived in the country last night for a visit.

The talks between Abdurahman Jama Barre and Mr Irvin Hicks centered on the strengthening of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries, Somalia and the United States, and international issues. The ceremony was attended by officials from the SDR Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the U.S. Ambassador to Somalia Frank Crigler.

Meanwhile, the SDR minister of foreign affairs also received today in his office the new Iranian envoy to Somalia, Mr ('Abd-al-Saqafili). During their meeting the minister and the envoy discussed issues pertaining to bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries. Mr (Saqafili) handed the minister a message from the Iranian foreign minister.

Confers With Prime Minister

*EA0612142789 Mogadishu Domestic Service
in Somali 2045 GMT 4 Dec 89*

[Text] Comrade Mohamed Ali Samantar, the Somali Democratic Republic prime minister, had a meeting at his office today with Mr Irvin Hicks, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs, and his delegation who are currently visiting Somalia. The purpose of the delegation's visit is to discuss with Somali officials the further strengthening of bilateral relations. With the prime minister they discussed matters connected with bilateral relations and international affairs.

Comrade Mohamed Ali Samantar briefed the delegation on the general situation in the country in the political, social, and economic fields. He spoke in particular about the Somali Government's efforts to implement the decision to operate a multi-party system in the country. He went on to say that the Somali Government had recently appointed a technical committee to advise on changes in the Constitution. He said that the Somali Government is prepared to have opposition people in the parties and to let them express their views independently.

Mr Irvin Hicks, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs, praised the Somali Government for its measures connected with the decision to allow the Somali people to form different parties. He said that this

would help settle any problem and lead to development. He said that the U.S. Government is ready to assist in the implementation of the scheme. Also present during the meeting were U.S. Ambassador to Somalia Frank Crigler and other leading officials of the two countries.

Tanzania

President Mwinyi Meets Iran's Velayati

*EA2911205889 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service
in Swahili 1900 GMT 26 Nov 89*

[Text] Dar es Salaam—President Ali Hassan Mwinyi has called on countries friendly to Africa to assist an independent Namibia in training its citizens, so they can run their government and institutions, as well as to provide it with economic assistance.

President Mwinyi issued the call today, when he was holding talks with Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister of Iran, at the Dar es Salaam International Airport, after receiving a special message from Mr 'Ali Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of Iran.

The president explained that such assistance is necessary, since the people of Namibia had no opportunity to develop educationally during their long struggle against the racist regime, which was exploiting Namibia economically. As a result, President Mwinyi said, Namibia's independence expected next year will lead to the departure of the racists, who will leave Namibia without sufficient trained personnel and with a weak economy.

The talks between President Mwinyi and Mr Velayati also touched on relations between the two countries.

Deputy Director Explains Position on Comoros

MB0512201189 London BBC World Service in English
1830 GMT 5 Dec 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] South Africa is clearly losing patience with the mercenaries led by Bob Denard that make the Presidential Guard of the Comoro Islands.

He and his men are now widely believed to have been responsible for the assassination last week of President Ahmed Abdallah, although Denard denies this.

Yesterday, South Africa announced that it was withdrawing funding for the mercenaries, and, now, along with France, they have demanded that the mercenaries leave the islands.

On the line to Pretoria, Ruth Philby asked Rusty Evans, South Africa's deputy director of foreign affairs, why they wanted Denard and his men to go:

[Begin recording] [Evans] We feel that the democratic process should be allowed to take place on the Comoros.

A tragic event took place in the last week or so, with the assassination of the president there. This is something that we cannot condone.

We have the opinion, as do many others, that the situation, as it is now, does not permit the Comoran population to exercise its right to self-determination and to elect its leaders, to elect an alternative leader to President Abdallah, and we felt it was necessary to make it clear that we intend suspending, until the situation on the ground has clarified, any assistance or cooperation to the Comoros, in general, and, specifically, to the Presidential Guard.

Included in the message was a call for the departure of all expatriate elements, including Colonel Denard, who do not enjoy, in our opinion, the support of the majority of the Comoran people.

[Philby] But, you are not actually linking the expatriate elements with the death of President Abdallah, are you?

[Evans] No, we are not. We understand that there is an inquiry into this. There are a lot of rumors about the events of the last week, and we have not made a judgment on that, and we do not intend making a judgment on that.

[Philby] Now, what makes you think that Col Denard and people like him are going to listen to you, the South Africans?

[Evans] The fact of the matter is the economic stability of the island is rather tenuous, and they are dependent on, to a large extent, things like tourism from South Africa and on South African investments on the island, but I am not saying that we are the exclusive lifeline, economic lifeline, to the island.

We are merely one of a number of countries that have got interests on the island.

[Philby] So, what happens if they do not listen to you?

[Evans] Well, on that we have not taken a decision. Well, it will depend on circumstances. It will depend on the response to this request and to this approach that we have taken.

[Philby] Would you favor a military option? Would South Africa be involved?

[Evans] I do not think that there is any question of that nature. We are not, at this stage, contemplating that eventuality.

[Philby] Your critics might say that, in the light of your funding of the Presidential Guard, that this situation is one of your own making, that you created, in fact, a Frankenstein that you can no longer control. What do you have to say to this?

[Evans] Well, I think it should be very clearly understood that our support for the Presidential Guard was in the context of a request from the government of that country, from President Abdallah. He approached the South African Government and requested us to assist him in giving assistance regarding the Presidential Guard.

We considered that [word indistinct] on the basis of the fact that economic stability in the island and reconstruction and development of the economic infrastructure of the island was dependent on stability, on a peaceful situation on the ground, and, against that background, we agreed to give President Abdallah the support that he asked us for. So, you know, I do not accept that our support for the presidential guard was out of a... [changes thought] it was there because we were asked to do that by the government of the country, and that has now been removed.

So, we no longer feel that we have any ground on which to continue supporting it, at least as a temporary measure. What we have said is that we are suspending assistance until such time as the situation has clarified itself and we are satisfied that, in fact, the presidential guard has the support of the Comoran people. [end recording]

And, since we recorded that interview, the mercenary leader, Bob Denard, has held a press conference on the Comoro Islands at which he confirmed that South Africa had asked him to leave. However, he said, their request was not sufficient reason for leaving and that he intended to stay in the Comoros.

He added, somewhat bizarrely, and I quote: I see the Frenchmen coming. They are going to give me a lot of cash, but I am not for sale.

Bob Denard also reaffirmed that he was not President Ahmed Abdallah's murderer.

Commentary Views Changing 'International Mood'

*MB0612052989 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 0500 GMT 6 Dec 89*

[Station commentary]

[Text] South Africa appears to be entering a period of warmer relations with her African neighbors.

Following his weekend visit to President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, President F.W. de Klerk spoke of the possibility of formal diplomatic relations with the Ivory Coast. Given the stature of President Houphouet-Boigny, such an eventuality is likely to lead to a normalization of relations between South Africa and several other African states. Closer contact and formal talks with South Africa have been mooted by Zambian President Kaunda on behalf of the six-member group of southern African states that he heads and that is noted for its political hostility towards South Africa.

In another direction, South African trade with Africa has doubled in the past year, despite many African countries being among the chief advocates of sanctions.

The more relaxed environment in which South Africa finds herself operating in southern Africa is reflected in the announcement by the minister of Defense, General Magnus Malan, that the Defence Force will no longer mount cross-border preemptive strikes at revolutionary and terrorist riots in neighboring countries.

The more promising climate faced by South Africa in Africa results from a combination of factors including the confirmation of South Africa as the regional power in southern Africa and the constructive and vital role played by South Africa in the successful march of Namibia towards independence.

There is as well acknowledgement of the potential role South Africa can play in the settlement of other regional conflicts. In this regard, South Africa has already played an important part in promoting more positive attitudes in the peace talks aimed at ending the civil war in Angola.

Then there has been the spin-off for South and southern Africa in the realignment now taking place in international affairs for political settlements of regional conflicts and for peaceful relations between the superpowers, as was stressed at the Malta summit at the weekend. The more relaxed environment that South Africa is approaching in Africa could slowly widen. For example, a trade mission from distant Turkey is in South Africa this week to negotiate closer business ties.

Doors long closed to South African tourists are opening, even in what would only a year or two ago have been regarded as the most unlikely cases of the Soviet Union and communist China. Tentative moves at reestablishing links between South Africa and the Soviet Union could well extend to formal contact between South Africa and other countries in Eastern Europe. These are

still early days, but the international mood is changing and South Africa stands to benefit from the changing mood.

Men Arrested in Connection With Hit Squad Named

*MB0712081789 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0815 GMT 7 Dec 89*

[Text] Johannesburg Dec 7 SAPA—The police have named five men arrested on Tuesday [5 December] in connection with hit squad attacks on anti-apartheid activists.

A spokesman for the police public relations division identified the men as: Mr Fanie Goosen, 29, from Vereeniging, Mr Dawid Johannes de Beer, 38, of Vereeniging, Mr Cornelis Johannes Loppering, 24, of Vereeniging, Mr Hendrik Francois Binneman, 41, of Randburg, and Mr Cornelius Gerhardus van Zyl, 28, of Randburg.

Weapons—including 12-bore shotguns—were seized shortly after the arrest of the five men, who are allegedly linked to right-wing group.

Police said the men were detained for questioning in connection with unsolved bombings and other violent acts.

Two other men, Mr Ferdinand Barnard and Mr Calla Botha, were detained on October 31 and November 30 respectively.

The spokesman said the names of the five could be released since they were now known in certain quarters and the investigation had reached the stage where publication of the names was no longer a crucial factor.

Maj Reg Crewe, of the SAP [South African Police] public relations division in Pretoria, said however no further details about the men would be furnished at this stage.

De Beers To Open New Transvaal Diamond Mine

*MB0612065989 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 0500 GMT 6 Dec 89*

[Text] De Beers Consolidated Mines has announced in Johannesburg that it is to open a new diamond mine that is expected to deliver more than four million carats a year.

Our economics news staff report that the mine will be developed on the farm Venetia, near Alldays in the northern Transvaal, and that it would provide employment for 750 people.

The project is the biggest single investment by De Beers. The mine will begin limited production in the 2d half of next year when upgrading and the extension of the existing sample plant will have been completed. The estimated cost of developing the mine to full production capacity will be about 1.1 billion rands.

Applies for Nonracial Housing

*MB0612081889 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0748 GMT 6 Dec 89*

[Text] Johannesburg Dec 6 SAPA—An application for the establishment of a "free settlement area" in the frontier town of Messina has been submitted to the government, De Beers Consolidated Mines said on Tuesday [5 December].

De Beers is to develop a new major diamond mine on the farm Venetia, in the northern Transvaal, the mining group said in a statement.

It said the bulk of more than 750 workers would be recruited from nearby Lebowa and skilled and management staff would be accommodated primarily in Messina.

"The Messina town council has submitted an application for the establishment of a free settlement area to enable employees to be housed non-racially," the statement said.

The company said at full production the mine would recover over four million carats a year from the treatment of 3.3 million tons of ore.

"In the interim, the mine will begin limited diamond production during the second half of 1990, once upgrading and extending of the existing sample plant is completed.

"At that stage the mine will employ a labour force of about 150. Completion of the new main recovery plant, on which work is now proceeding, is expected in mid 1992."

The whole project is expected to cost about R1.1 billion [1.1 billion rand], the company said.

The statement said the Department of Water Affairs would construct a state water scheme on the farm Greefswald, 27km to the north, on the Limpopo River, subject to formal cabinet approval in terms of the Water Act.

Detailed environmental impact studies were being carried out in all areas affected by the project, in terms of the Environmental Conservation Act.

The government has been approached to assist with the financing of the 78km road to Messina, which will also serve existing communities in the region.

SABC Names New External Services Editor

*MB0612165589 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 1600 GMT 6 Dec 89*

[Text] The SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] has announced the appointment of the editor in chief of its external services. He is Mr Lionel Williams, currently editor external news services. The external news services consist of Radio RSA [Republic of South

Africa], broadcasting internationally as The Voice of South Africa, and the external news services which supply news material to clients in Africa and abroad.

6 Dec Press Review on Current Problems, Issues

MB0612105889

[Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN

De Klerk To Reform Despite U.S. Rejection—Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 6 December says in its page 6 editorial "the Americans will not give Mr de Klerk any credit unless he accepts one man, one vote majority rule, which he totally rejects. But they should at least be informed enough to know what has been happening in the little more than two months since Mr De Klerk took office is so far reaching that nothing will ever be the same again." De Klerk "will get on with the task of turning his vision of a new South Africa into reality with or without the approval of the Americans. The Yanks will have no influence over what happens while they continue to reject Mr de Klerk's reforms as insignificant and continue to impose sanctions, with the threat of possibly more sanctions."

THE STAR

End to Cross-Border Raids Welcome—"The Government's renunciation of cross-border raids is more than welcome," declares a page 22 editorial in Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 6 December. "If it signals the end of this country's role as the southern African 'rogue elephant', it will be a powerful factor for peace with our neighbours and a natural corollary to a thrust for reconciliation at home." Hopefully, "support for anti-government groups in neighboring states, such as Mozambique, will now finally become a thing of the discredited past. Far better, as General Malan suggested, for South Africa to exert its important role in the region through economic cooperation."

BUSINESS DAY

Police Concern Over Public Image—Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 6 December states in a page 6 editorial: "Police have good reason to be worried about their public image. But when the outgoing police commissioner says the police force is about to be subjected to another vicious smear campaign, he is mistaking symptoms for cause. To head off the campaign he believes is coming, Gen Hennie de Witt states in advance that the SAP [South African Police] has no training camps for former terrorists, has never forced people to become policemen and has not trained people to be assassins. He does not ask why people should believe such things, or why allegations of police hit squads have not been rejected outright by a loyal public." "The police image cannot be protected by law, or by secrecy."

SOWETAN

Black Education Crisis—Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 6 December in its page 6 editorial says "it is time the Government and the community devised an imaginative plan to tackle the crisis in education in the black townships in general and Soweto in particular." SOWETAN points out that when teachers and parents formed the National Education Crisis Committee, to "talk to the Government with one voice," the government "reacted viciously, detaining the leaders and restricting the committee. If the authorities and parents are now serious about tackling the problems, solutions can be found."

TRANSVALER

Ceres, Vasco Polls Protest De Klerk Actions—Johannesburg TRANSVALER in Afrikaans on 4 December in a page 6 editorial refers to the results of the by-elections in the Vasco and Ceres constituencies in the Cape, saying some view the results as "a vote of protest against Mr de Klerk's actions over the past two months. The fact that in both constituencies thousands of the voters who voted for the National Party on 6 September decided to stay home this time, is interpreted as disapproval of, or concern about decisions on the beaches and the release of political detainees." But TRANSVALER believes that to "suddenly apply brakes" as a result of the Vasco and Ceres polls is to "threaten the whole process of creating new attitudes."

BEELD

Mutual Trust in Subcontinent—"Now that a peace reality is passing over the subcontinent, one can take note of General Magnus Malan's remark that the armed forces will no longer operate outside the country's borders and that there is no longer reason to support antigovernment groups in neighboring countries," remarks Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans on 5 December in a page 12 editorial. "This is indicative of a new doctrine that is guiding southern African affairs. Greater hope is placed on political processes and the role of the military is reduced. The Republic will not unilaterally take such a decision where there is a danger of large-scale aggression against it. The conclusion is that mutual trust exists and that the countries are aware of their mutual dependence."

Paris Indaba Advantage—A second editorial on the same page says the Paris indaba ended "on a different note from that on which it started—with a clear statement against sanctions by an important part of the indaba participants." That is "probably the important advantage of such a discussion session—outside South Africa and without the government. It offers the ANC [African National Congress] the opportunity to come into touch with the South African realities."

WINDHOEK OBSERVER

Criticism of Proposals for Defense Force—Referring to the proposals for a defense force for South-West Africa Windhoek WINDHOEK OBSERVER in English on 2 December says in its page 10 editorial: "This country can barely afford to import a ploughshare of which we are in need of many; it is not in a position to manufacture a pick-handle, although we have an abundance of timber for this purpose. One modern field gun, one self-propelled Howitzer meeting today's artillery standards is sure to make such a hole in the depleted treasury." "Of course we need a sound, good police force, which is ample to care for such interests of this country as crime and providing security. No organized military force will threaten this country and the only danger is the individual or individuals here, who pose as 'white wolves' or dissident guerrillas, and who suffer delusions when they have an R-5 or AK-47 in their hands."

ILANGA

Editorial Urges No Hit Squad 'Cover-Up'—Durban ILANGA in Zulu on 27-29 November in a page 6 editorial says: "Even if the investigation by the attorney-general of the Orange Free State into horrifying allegations of police involvement in the assassination of the South African Government's political rivals turns out to be usable, it still is imperative that a judicial inquiry be set up to probe the matter further. Information volunteered by those who say they took part in the killings is too incriminating for the matter to be taken lightly." "Too many people have been killed in strange circumstances; respectable people known to be critics of the system of apartheid." "Let there be a thorough investigation, because up until now, the murderers of people like David Webster, Rick Turner, and Mrs Mxenge have never been brought to justice. The truth must emerge, and the culprits be charged in a court of law, because that is where the truth about the existence of police death squads can be ascertained. Let there be no cover-up."

Angola

MPLA Criticizes UNITA Allegations

MB0612202089 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1933 GMT
6 Dec 89

[Commentary: "Serious Situation"]

[Text] Through a communique published in Lisbon, UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] has denied any involvement in the bombing attempt which occurred at a residential building near the Trade Ministry installations in Luanda last Friday [1 December].

Strange though it may seem, the apartheid- and CIA-backed bandit gang has actually dared to blame the Angolan Government for that terrorist act.

This is the first paradox: The aforesaid communique states that UNITA "has given priority to the search for a cease-fire and peace". However, soon afterward, Jonas Savimbi stressed that Jamba has "an airport and a landing strip capable of receiving any type of aircraft, including those that carry U.S. aid". He said this during a 2 December interview with a journalist in Kinshasa.

This is the second paradox: Jonas Savimbi confirmed the crash of a U.S. aircraft in Angola last week. The aircraft carried weapons for the armed opposition which would use them to carry out acts of terrorism against defenseless people.

Why then must we investigate who carried out that terrorist act on 1 December? The past identifies the culprit quite clearly. Only recently, UNITA claimed responsibility for a similar action in a residential building near a primary school. The bomb killed one woman, and wounded the Japanese director general of the installations of Petromar [Sea Oil Exploration Company], a U.S. oil company in Luanda.

The ploys and contradictory statements made by the UNITA ringleaders on such occasions are well known. The Angolan people remember that UNITA has claimed responsibility for actions that caused the deaths of innocent civilians. Sometimes these operations have even been quite minor.

Thus, UNITA's denial of any responsibility about the 1 December bomb blast only shows the armed bandit gang's desperate situation. It is trying to save face by claiming that it is an organization that supports peace, so that it can minimize inevitable and tragic isolation.

Meanwhile, the Angolan Government guarantees its people's security and continues to make efforts to restore peace in the country.

The Angolan Government has proposed that another summit of the eight African countries dealing with the Angolan peace process be held on 21 December. It intends to present a cease-fire proposal on the basis of

the Gbadolite principles and respect for the Angolan state's sovereignty in order to end foreign interference in Angola's internal affairs and move toward the just and lasting peace that all Angolan people desire.

Dos Santos Discusses East Europe Changes

MB0612205189 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 2001 GMT
6 Dec 89

[Text] Havana, 6 Dec (From ANGOP's special correspondent)—President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said in Havana on 5 December that current changes in socialist Europe do not threaten the principles of socialism.

"We believe that the procedures and methods for implementing those principles must be reviewed," he said when replying to a question asked by a Cape Verde journalist.

He said that despite the fact that it was difficult "to express scientifically backed principles" from Africa about events in East European countries, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said that "now we see the beginning of a process in search of the solutions that will satisfy the workers and the popular masses." [sentence as received]

The Angolan head of state said "saturation occurred because the socialist European countries were for some time unable to respond to their societies' needs."

The process under way in those countries may make it possible in the future "to find organizational systems on the basis of socialist principles, ensuring the freedom of the citizens and their full participation in the state's affairs, in the resolution of their own problems, and in guaranteeing stability," the Angolan head of state said.

UNITA's Savimbi Interviewed on Peace Prospects

MB0712065289 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance
of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern
and Central Africa 0500 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Comrade President Dr Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, army general and supreme commander of FALA [Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola], arrived in Jamba yesterday afternoon at the end of a diplomatic tour which took him to several African countries. Soon after his arrival at the Jamba International Airport, the supreme leader of the Angolan resistance was interviewed by Vorgan [Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel]. We will now re-broadcast the interview:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Comrade President, are there any new peace prospects for Angola after your tour?

[Savimbi] I think so. The mediator has given us the cease-fire proposals. We have approved them, and we now hope that the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] will follow suit.

[Reporter] (?Do you have any) message for the Angolan people after this great tour?

[Savimbi] Well, we believe it is necessary that we should overcome minor obstacles, petty intrigues, and short delays. If we take into consideration the bishops' pastoral letter, it reflects the views of the people as a whole rather than the views of politicians. If the leaders of UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] and the MPLA lack the courage to take a step forward in order to achieve peace, then it really means that we are against the will of the people.

UNITA is determined to sign a cease-fire. We are also willing to negotiate peace and reconciliation with the MPLA, without preconditions. However, we wish to state that what matters now is that there should be only one mediator. UNITA accepts President Mobutu as the mediator. However, we cannot accept a group of mediators because each one of them has his own interests at stake. Right now, what matters are the interests of the Angolan people. So, we have come back very encouraged, hoping that others will show the same overture and goodwill.

We would like to urge the Angolan people to continue to show a firm position like the Catholic Church. We think that the cowardice of those who seek an accommodation by means of obsolete solutions, will eventually be punished because the people will not forgive them. The MPLA regime has been overtaken by events. So, we wish to congratulate the Catholic Church. We also wish that other democratic forces in Angola will adopt a courageous position like us. Those who wish to adopt a cowardly position should at least keep quiet so that they will not have to face the people.

I wish to convey this message to the Angolan people: Whatever the obstacles, there will be peace. Whatever the intransigence, there will be a cease-fire because the winds are blowing in favor of peace and democracy.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, Comrade President.
[end recording]

Comoros

Mercenaries Still in Control; Incidents Reported

AFP Correspondent Ordered To Leave

EA0712091289 Mayotte Radio France Overseas
in French 1600 GMT 6 Dec 89

[Text] In the Comoros, journalists are undoubtedly not treated well. This morning, AFP's special envoy to Moroni, Michel Sailhan, was ordered to leave the place on board the first plane.

He was made aware of this by a mercenary named [name indistinct], in charge of relations with the press. He has been blamed for having caused incidents in the Comoros, and Bob Denard himself has also reproached him for the contents of dispatches sent to AFP.

Michel Sailhan is being allowed to continue working until his departure tomorrow or the day after tomorrow—Friday.

The special envoy of the French daily LIBERATION, (Didier Francois), was ordered to leave the Comoros last Friday, 1 Dec, but the measure has been cancelled. [Paris AFP in French on 7 December at 0826 GMT reports the following: "Special AFP correspondent Michel Sailhan was attacked and threatened with death Thursday morning (7 December) by a European mercenary of the Presidential Guard (PG) while about one thousand young Comorans demonstrated in Moroni against the mercenaries."]

France To Suspend Aid

AB0612202489 Paris AFP in English 1930 GMT
6 Dec 89

[Text] Paris, Dec 6 (AFP)—France will suspend aid to the Comoros until French mercenary Bob Denard leaves the Indian Ocean Islands he has controlled since the president was assassinated last month, diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

French authorities had already decided to stop sending technical experts to the archipelago, where President Ahmed Abdallah was assassinated on November 26.

Mr. Denard, who is suspected of involvement in the assassination, has refused to leave the islands despite demands by France and South Africa, which also provides aid to the Comoros.

The French and the South African authorities appear unlikely however to use force to dislodge Mr. Denard and his men, who ran the presidential guard since restoring Mr. Abdallah to power in 1978 after a coup against him.

In the Comoro capital of Moroni Tuesday, a hostile crowd of 400 people chanted "murderer" at Mr. Denard as he came out of the grand mosque there.

It was the first time he had been seen in public since the mysterious murder of President Abdallah.

Mr. Denard, who controls the 650-strong Presidential Guard which includes 30 mercenaries, had asked to appear before 30 "sharif", descendants of the Prophet Mohamed, and the grand Mufti, for the performing of a "hitima".

The ceremony is intended to cleanse a person of suspicions harboured against him.

Mr. Denard waited 20 minutes in vain for the religious dignitaries to turn up. When they failed to show, he left amid a rain of insults.

The Comoros are an Islamic Republic.

Students Demonstrate in Moroni

*AB0712082189 Paris AFP in French 0803 GMT
7 Dec 89*

[Text] Moroni, 7 Dec (AFP)—About one thousand students demonstrated Thursday morning [7 December] on the streets of Moroni to protest the presence of the mercenaries in the Comoros, as reported from the Comoros. The young demonstrators were carrying signs reading: "Out With Mercenaries" and chanted: "Assassins, assassins."

Several truckloads of soldiers of the Presidential Guard (PG) led by "Hofman" a European mercenary who is the number three man in the PG, quickly arrived on the scene, it was reported.

Soldiers Disperse Protesters

*AB0712112889 Paris AFP in English 1059 GMT
7 Dec 89*

[By Michel Sailhan]

[Excerpt] Moroni, Dec 7 (AFP)—Heavily-armed soldiers of the mercenary-led Comoros Presidential Guard, brutally dispersed a demonstration by about 1,000 students here Thursday, threatening newsmen and seizing their notes and films.

Guardsmen backed by mobile machine-guns, baton-charged the demonstrators and threw tear gas grenades to disperse the marchers protesting against the foreign mercenaries who have taken control since President Ahmed Abdallah was murdered in unclear circumstances 11 days ago. It was not immediately known if there were any casualties.

The guardsmen, under the command of Captain Hofman, a white officer, also attacked journalists and film crews covering the demonstration. Capt. Hofman came up to this AFP correspondent trained his rifle on him and said: "Get out, if you're not gone in one minute you'll be dead." After seizing his notes, the mercenary brutalised the journalist as he got into his car. Other newsmen were also assaulted by soldiers who snatched their notes and film.

As the guardsmen rounded on the protesters along the seafront boulevard, some youngsters dived into the sea to escape while others ran up side streets.

At 0800 GMT more demonstrators had gathered in central Moroni and forced their way into the Interior Ministry and seat of government. An hour later, clashes were still raging with a pall of tear gas hanging over the scene.

On Wednesday evening, leaflets were distributed in Moroni calling for a big demonstration Saturday [9 December] outside the French Embassy. The leaflets called for a general strike on Friday [8 December] to force the departure of Frenchman Bob Denard and the 30-odd French and Belgian mercenaries who form the backbone of the Presidential Guard. [passage omitted]

Mozambique

People's Assembly Seventh Session To Begin 14 Dec

*MB0412191289 Maputo Domestic Service
in Portuguese 1730 GMT 4 Dec 89*

[Text] The People's Assembly will begin its seventh session in Maputo on 14 December.

A communique received at our news desk says the meeting has been convened by People's Assembly Chairman Marcelino dos Santos, under the terms of the Republic's Constitution.

RSA Daily Article on SADF-MNR Links Noted

*MB0412191089 Maputo in English to Southern
Africa 1800 GMT 4 Dec 89*

[Text] A prominent white South African antiapartheid activist, David Webster, may have been killed for his knowledge about [the Republic of] South Africa's [RSA] support for the MNR [Mozambique National Resistance] bandits.

According to the Johannesburg daily STAR newspaper, David Webster, an anthropologist at the University of Witwatersrand, in his field work in Natal Province, had gathered proof of the active work of the South African Defense Force [SADF] in MNR terrorism inside Mozambique. He had gathered information about the training of the MNR by the SADF inside South Africa and the MNR's infiltration groups into Mozambique.

The STAR says David Webster gave this information shortly before his death, in May, to another academic, who has direct links to the Mozambican Government and Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front], who is now in the United States.

Benin**President Kerekou Opens Meeting on Reforms 6 Dec**

AB0612220989 Cotonou Domestic Service in French
1930 GMT 6 Dec 89

[President Mathieu Kerekou's address to the opening session of the special joint meeting of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin (PRPB) Central Committee, the National Revolutionary Assembly (ANR) Standing Committee, and the National Executive Council (CEN) in Cotonou on 6 December 1989—recorded]

[Text] Comrade members of the PRPB Central Committee, comrade members of the ANR Standing Committee, comrade CEN members, and dear comrades in arms, the happy outcome in June 1989 of the long and difficult negotiations by our party and our revolutionary state with the IMF and the World Bank for the adoption of a structural adjustment program, has opened favorable new prospects for Benin in the resolute pursuit of our action and efforts to revive our national economy and increase our production capacity.

As you know, and as we stressed in our message to the nation on 29 November 1989, a few months after the application of this program, our people today are confronted with serious difficulties. In fact, an objective critical analysis of these difficulties and the unavoidable exigencies that resulted from the conscious and responsible choice that we made to establish new bases for the recovery and revival of our national economy and the promotion of the private sector have led us to conclude that the ruling bodies of our party and our revolutionary state must ardently and very carefully undertake political, institutional, economic and financial reforms. This is the purpose of this special joint session of the PRB Central Committee, the ANR Standing Committee, and the CEN. The historic importance of this session is known to every Beninese national and consequently, it holds [words indistinct].

At any rate everyone knows that the current situation in our country is marked by a profound social upheaval which was caused by the effects of the acute national economic crisis. Never before has our country needed such a total mobilization of all its active forces, the pooling of all its energies, and the combining of all its creative abilities for the urgent revival of our national economy and the development of our production capacity. This is a responsibility of all the members of the central leadership body of our party and our revolutionary state in the face of their historic, individual, and collective duty toward the future development of the entire Beninese nation. In the presence of the challenges

of the national and international situation, no official of the Beninese revolution can afford to beat around the bush without [words indistinct] the current realities, and without betraying the superior interests of the hard-working people of Benin. This means that the task before us during this session is to carry out a vigorous examination of our experience in the operation of the institutional system established in our country through the adoption of our Constitution of 26 August 1977 so as to respond resolutely to the following questions:

First: Does the choice of a socialist development process based on Marxist-Leninist philosophy which we freely adopted on 30 November 1974 at the historic Goho Square conform to the national demands for the liberalization of the economy and the promotion of the private sector in our country?

Second: Does the principle under which the party controls the state guarantee the effective membership and the participation of all the people of Benin, who have other political, concepts and convictions [words indistinct] the Marxist-Leninist ideology?

Third: Does the structure and machinery for the operation of our state organization safeguard the efficient conduct of state affairs?

Fourth: Are the constitutional dispositions in force in our country good enough to encourage the spirit of initiative and to ensure the harmonious and balanced promotion of the private sector?

There is no doubt that if we find clear and precise answer to these questions, we will in the same way, determine the content, the methodology and forms of political, institutional, economic and financial reforms to be effected during the 1st quarter of 1990. Whatever the case, we must not lose sight of the profound and decisive reforms needed to effect a true democratic change in our country and to ensure a healthy national atmosphere in our country. There must be a collective effort by the authentic representatives of all the active forces of the nation brought together at a national conference, where all the political organizations can freely express themselves. They do so because they are positively motivated by the willingness to contribute to the effort to establish a new, democratic, modern, and prosperous society.

Only if all Beninese nationals engage responsibly in the qualitative (?mediation) of our institutions, can our people withstand the exigencies of our structural adjustment program.

With these words that exhort the confidence of each of us, we wish to declare open the special joint session of the PRPB Central Committee, ANR Standing Committee, and the CEN. Full success to our deliberations. Ready for the Revolution, the struggle continues!

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DATE FILMED

8 Dec 1989

